

5                   **APPARATUS, METHOD, AND ARTICLE OF MANUFACTURE  
                    USED TO INVOICE FOR SERVICES CONSUMED  
                    IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

10                                   **ABSTRACT**

                    An apparatus, method, and article of manufacture that provides an  
efficient way to invoice the users of a communication system (100) for the  
system resources consumed. Invoicing is based upon flexible criteria that can  
be adapted depending upon the charges a resource provider charges. For  
15    example, a user may incur a one-time charge for downloading a desired  
application program, or the user may be charged a download fee plus a  
recurring monthly fee for having continual access to the program and any  
updates to the program. A fee might also be charged for each time the  
application is used. These fees are recorded as debits and transferred to an  
20    invoicing location where an invoice reflecting the debits is constructed. For  
example, the debits may comprise fees for wireless service access, Internet  
service access, downloaded application programs, data, multimedia services, or  
other fees.